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PLO OFFICIAL HOLDING TALKS IN TEHRAN ON VOLUNTEERS

JN200917 Doha QNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Dec--In a dispatch from Tehran, the Kuwaiti weekly newspaper AL-HADAF reports today that the PLO office director in Tehran, Hani al-Hasan, will leave for Qom today to convey a message to Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Khomeyni from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The paper adds that Al-Hasan arrived in Tehran suddenly and held talks with several members of the Iranian Command Council on the issue of the Iranian volunteers, who have begun to arrive in the Syrian capital on their way to southern Lebanon.

The paper believes that the Palestinian resistance leaders have expressed reservations regarding the dispatch of these Iranian volunteers to southern Lebanon. They have informed Iranian officials that the presence of the volunteers will create problems for the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon and that the resistance is not suffering from a shortage of men.

Meanwhile, the paper cites Hani al-Hasan as saying that he has not established permanent residence in Tehran because certain political matters require that he make repeated visits to the Lebanese capital.

PLO Spokesman on Volunteers

LD191705 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Dec 79 p 12 LD

[Report by correspondent Mansur Taraji: "Iranian Volunteers Cause Trouble for PLO"]

[Excerpts] In an exclusive interview, PLO spokesman Abu Munir commented as follows on the 1,000 Iranian volunteers' going to southern Lebanon:

"The Iranian Revolution and Palestine fight together against fascism and Zionism. The liberation of Jerusalem is an obligatory religious duty for all the Muslims of the world, therefore we are unable to prevent the entry into southern Lebanon of the Iranian volunteers. What we should not forget is that the Palestinian revolution's primary requirements are political, moral and financial support and medical and pharmaceutical aid."

Abu Munir hinted that the arrival of 1,000 Iranian volunteers would create difficulties for the PLO unit but that this organization could not prevent them from coming: "In general, with the difficulties facing them in Beirut and Damascus the PLO authorities are unable to welcome the arrival of 1,000 Iranian volunteers."

Some Iranians who were at a PLO camp in southern Lebanon 3 months ago have said that there were 3,000 Iranians undergoing military training at the PLO camps under George Habash, Nayif Hawatimah and Al-Fatah. At the George Habash camp there were even some Iranian girls undergoing military training. At the Al-Fatah camp there were Iranian youths of different political persuasions [including] the Mojahedin-e Khalq and the Feda'i-ye Khalq, though most of them were Feda'i-ye Islam supporters. The training of the 3,000 Iranians has involved the Fatah organization in much expenditure.

An official at the Iranian Embassy in Damascus today said that one of the problems was how to get the youngsters back to Iran.

VOP REPORTS ON LIBYAN MEASURES AGAINST PALESTINIANS

NC191703 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 19 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Libyan intelligence is summoning Palestinian teachers in Libya for questioning about their connection with the Palestinian revolution and about their just and legitimate struggle to achieve the aims of their people, and to force them to accept Libyan custodianship over the Palestinian revolution.

Urgent reports from Tripoli say that the Libyan authorities intend to deport a large number of Palestinian teachers because they reject Al-Qadhdhafi's plots against the PLO and the Palestinian people. The Libyan authorities have addressed an ultimatum to brother Mahmud Shinaq, member of the Fatah regional committee in Libya, to leave Libya within 24 hours.

Meanwhile a large number of Palestinian people in the Al-Bayda' area are holding sit-ins and hunger strikes until death to protest the Al-Qadhdhafi regime's suppression of and plotting against the PLO and the Palestinian people, demanding that all Palestinian strugglers detained in the prisons of the Libyan regime be released.

Libyan Report Questioned

NC200832 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0515 GMT 20 Dec 79 NC

[20 December statement by PLO official source--read by announcer]

[Text] The Libyan news agency has reported that Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud yesterday received Naji 'Allush and Abu ar-Ra'id in their capacity as Fatah movement officials. We want to emphasize that the two above-mentioned persons have nothing to do with the Fatah movement. The first was suspended from membership 2 years ago. The second was dismissed from the Fatah movement 5 years ago for cooperating with suspicious organs operating against the Palestinian revolution.

FATAH, OMANI LIBERATION FRONT ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT

NC191710 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 19 Dec 79 NC

[Text] The Palestine national liberation movement, Fatah, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman have affirmed their determination to continue the struggle against the imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary enemy and to foil the Camp David plot. This was contained in a joint statement issued this morning at the end of the visit of the delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman, led by the chairman of its executive committee, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Qadi.

The two sides strongly denounced the autonomy plot, which perpetuates the Zionist occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories. They called for the use of the oil weapon in the battle against imperialism and Zionism.

KUWAIT

FOREIGN MINISTER DENIES U.S. MILITARY DELEGATION TO VISIT

LD191312 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1226 GMT 19 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Kuwait, has denied that Kuwait is among the countries to be visited by a U.S. military delegation for consultations about temporary bases. The group, described as high level, arrived yesterday in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia has denied reports that the delegation is seeking military facilities in Saudi Arabia. The group, led by Robert Murray, an expert on the Middle East at the Defense Department, is to visit Oman, Somalia and Kenya.

Shaykh Sabah told journalists he has no knowledge that the American group will visit Kuwait. He said, "I have no knowledge of this."

A spokesman for the U.S. Defense Department confirmed yesterday that the talks to be held by the group had no connection with the American-Iranian crisis.

PLO OFFICIAL MEETS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

LD191350 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1217 GMT 19 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--'Awni Battash, director of the PLO office here, met today with Shaykh as-Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and handed him a message from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. After the meeting, Battash told journalists that the message is connected with the present situation in the Arab region, particularly with devastated southern Lebanon, and the resolutions that the UN Security Council could adopt when the question of southern Lebanon is submitted. He pointed out that Shaykh Sabah stressed Kuwait's concern for the Palestinian resistance and its "firm stand in support of the revolution and its just struggle to regain the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

In reply to a question about relations between the PLO and Libya, which recently became tense, Battash expressed his hope that "no one would make a serious slip and interfere in Palestinian affairs."

QATAR

OIL MINISTER COMMENTS ON OIL, OPEC MEETING

JN191835 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1810 GMT 19 Dec 79 JN

[Excerpts] Caracas, 19 December--Qatari Finance and Oil Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani has said that his country will freeze its oil prices during the coming year unless extraordinary circumstances emerge and require reconsideration of these prices. In several interviews with representatives of U.S. television networks and foreign news agency and press correspondents today, Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz pointed out that Qatar is maintaining its present production level, which is half a million barrels a day, and that there is no intention of increasing or decreasing oil production. Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz explained that the recent amendment of Qatari oil prices was moderate and said: We hope that the United States and the European states will appreciate our humane stand and realize that the real reason for the price hike is the manipulation by the Western oil companies and their illegal profits.

The Qatari finance and oil minister expressed his conviction that the dollar is still the best currency to use for oil prices. He explained that even if no agreement is reached on the unification of prices at the current OPEC ministerial meeting, this will not be proof of OPEC's lack of unity, solidarity and cohesion. It will not mean that OPEC has collapsed, as some people imagine.

SAUDI ARABIA

U.S. DEFENSE EXPERTS' VISIT NOT CONNECTED WITH CRISIS

LD191812 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1737 GMT 19 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh--U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom John West said the visit by a U.S. delegation to the kingdom that began last night under the leadership of Robert Murray is within the framework of continuous consultations between the kingdom and the United States that have been going on for several years. In a statement tonight, the ambassador said the visit of the delegation had no connection with a crisis in the region. The visit does not aim at raising the subject of or requesting or even discussing the question of U.S. forces using Saudi military bases. The U.S. ambassador commented on the news published by the U.S. media yesterday on the aims of the delegation's visit to the kingdom and said that such reports are unfounded and have no basis at all.

DEFENSE MINISTER STRESSES GULF SECURITY

LD191202 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 19 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Riyad--His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation, has stressed that the Gulf countries will not permit any act of foreign intervention aimed at capturing their wealth, reducing their sovereignty or interfering in their internal affairs, regardless of the form the intervention takes and regardless of who tries to carry it out.

His royal highness also stressed that there is no truth in reports circulated by tendentious foreign information media about what they call the occupation of the oil sources in the Gulf. In an interview published today by AL-JAZIRAH, he said there are no incidents in the Gulf that require increasing the so-called Gulf security. He added: We consider the Gulf region to be one of the most secure regions in the world with the least problems and distrubances.

In reply to a question about the latest American arms deal with the kingdom, his royal highness the defense and aviation minister said the deal was a continuation of previous deals aimed at developing the Saudi forces' potential and at supplying them with the weapons they require from friendly Western countries, not only from the United States.

The announcement of the recent U.S. arms deal with Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz went on, came in the wake of a U.S. agreement. The prince also expressed satisfaction with the United States' cooperation with the kingdom as a friendly state. In this respect, his royal highness pointed to the continuing policy of the kingdom aimed at diversifying its arms sources and its welcome for any constructive cooperation that would serve the interests of the Arab and Islamic nations.

Answering a question about an Arab military-industrial organization [AMIO] with the participation of members of the former organization, his royal highness announced that liquidation of AMIO was still going on with companies and partners that had been involved in the organization. When the operation ends it will then be possible to set up a new AMIO in any Arab place that meets Arab interests.

SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN GRAND MOSQUE INCIDENT DENIED

LD201042 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh--A responsible source has reaffirmed that no link whatsoever has been established between the criminal attack on the Grand Mosque and any foreign quarter. Citing a report in Beirut's AN-NAHAR attributed to His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, accusing the Soviet Union of being involved, the source said the report is a mere fabrication and is unfounded. The source added that speculation and reports by certain information media about the Grand Mosque incident and its dimensions are but mere figments of the imagination resulting from ignorance of the political and social structure of the kingdom.

UAE

MINISTER AFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO $24 A BARREL PRICE

LD192300 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 2233 GMT 19 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Caracas, 19 Dec, SNA--The minister of oil and mineral resources in the United Arab Emirates, Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, said his country would remain with Saudi Arabia and Qatar in the first group that fixed its oil price at $24 a barrel. The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY said that Dr al-'Utaybah and Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn al-Khalifah, Qatari minister of finance and oil, supported Shaykh Yamani in the demand that oil prices in the market should not exceed $24 a barrel, with every country adding what it wants within agreed limits.

IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO KUWAIT ARRIVES IN ABU DHABI

JN190743 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0735 GMT 19 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 December--Dr 'Ali Shams Ardakani, Iran's ambassador to Kuwait, arrived here this morning on a 2-day visit to the UAE. During his visit, the Iranian ambassador will hold talks with UAE officials on bilateral relations.

Meets With Official

JN191339 Doha QNA in Arabic 1320 GMT 19 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 December--Dr 'Ali Shams Ardakani, Iran's ambassador to Kuwait and his government's envoy to several of the region's states, held talks today with UAE Presidential Office Chief Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah.

The Iranian ambassador's talks with the UAE officials centered on explaining the developments in the situation in Iran, his country's policy in the Gulf region, its peaceful intentions toward the region's states, its desire to bolster relations of cooperation between his country and these states and the developments in the situation in the region.

Meets With President

JN200906 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0840 GMT 20 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 December--Today, UAE President Shaykh Zayir ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr 'Ali Shams Ardakani, who is currently visiting Abu Dhabi.

During the meeting, they discussed means of strengthening bilateral relations as well as issues of mutual interest. The Iranian ambassador to Kuwait, who arrived here yesterday, recently visited Bahrain and Qatar as part of a tour in the region.

YAR

CABINET DISCUSSES UK 'CONFISCATION' OF YEMENI AIRLINER

JN192024 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Dec 79 JN

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers held its periodic meeting under Prime Minister Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani this morning. The council discussed the subject of the British authorities' continued confiscation of the Yemeni airliner at Heathrow Airport in London and took a number of proper decisions regarding it. The meeting, which was attended by Chief of Staff Lt Col 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Barati, lasted 5 hours.

SALIH, AL-QADHDHAFI HOLD TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

JN191333 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Dec 79 JN

[Text] The SABA' NEWS AGENCY has learned that a telephone conversation took place last night between brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, and brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution. The conversation was on current Arab affairs and the Palestine question.

Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expressed his profound indignation over the seizure of the Yemeni prime minister's plane by British authorities at Heathrow Airport, a measure which conflicts with international laws and norms.

PDRY ENVOY LEAVES SAN'A' FOLLOWING VISIT, MAKES STATEMENT

JN191336 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Dec 79 JN

[Excerpt] Brother 'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim, secretary of the Presidium of the People's Supreme Council in the southern part of the homeland, left San'a' this morning for Aden following a brief visit during which he met with brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, and conveyed to him a verbal message from his brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, president of the southern part of the homeland.

Ghanim told the SABA' NEWS AGENCY correspondent that Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih asked him to convey a verbal message to his brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il on existing consultations and coordination between the two parts of Yemen in the interest of Yemeni reunification.

GHALI INSISTS ON OPENING LIAISON OFFICES IN TERRITORIES

TA201138 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Dec 79 p 3 TA

[By 'Oded Granot, MA'ARIV correspondent in Cairo]

[Excerpt] Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali told MA'ARIV that Egypt will insist on its demand for Egyptian "liaison offices" in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, even if the local inhabitants are opposed to this.

Ghali admitted that the matter is not just based on a desire to "make it easier" for the Palestinian inhabitants to obtain visas to Egypt, but rather it is a clear political move aimed at strengthening direct contacts between Egypt and the inhabitants of the territories in order to promote the autonomy plan.

Nevertheless, Ghali confirmed the report published in MA'ARIV yesterday that the establishment of these offices requires the agreement of the State of Israel. He said Egypt will wait for this answer.

On the Egyptian ambassador that will serve in Israel, Dr Ghali said the ambassador's name will soon be transmitted to Jerusalem "via conventional channels," and Egypt will await Israeli approval.

Contrary to what may be believed, Ghali claimed that the peace agreement does not oblige Egypt to open a consular-level diplomatic representation by 27 January. He added that this can be done after the exchange of ambassadors on 26 February.

SEVENTH ROUND OF AUTONOMY TALKS END

NC191408 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Dec 79 NC

[Excerpts] The seventh round of the Palestinian autonomy negotiations began in the Mena House Hotel in Cairo this morning.

After speeches by the chief delegates, the three delegations to the autonomy discussions held a closed session to discuss ways of overcoming difficulties still hampering full autonomy for the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza. The session ended at 1130.

At 1215, the chief delegates held a press conference during which a joint statement on the results of the seventh round of the discussions was read. The statement says that the three delegations are satisfied with the work achieved by the working committees during the past period and that they asked these committees to accelerate this progress and told them that they have the right to seek the aid of experts from both countries in their future meetings.

The chief delegates decided that the working committees will hold their next meeting in Al-Jizah 14-18 January, and another meeting in Herzliyya 28-30 January. The chief delegates also decided to hold the eighth round of the discussions at the end of January and to fix the precise date after consultations among the chief delegates.

Answering a question on progress made regarding Palestinians participating in the autonomy talks, Israeli chief delegate Yosef Burg said that the two working groups made tangible progress regarding the method of elections and the responsibilities of autonomous rule. He added: I hope these groups will provide the means to explain to the Palestinian Arabs in Gaza and the West Bank that elections will be held, and that it is their duty to participate in them.

Answering a question about his assessment of the achievements, Dr Mustafa Khalil said:

[Begin Khalil recording] The work of the two subcommittees stemming from the three negotiating delegations has been reviewed. The first subcommittee is concerned with the elections and the second is concerned with the responsibilities of autonomous rule. Regarding agreement reached by the committee on the method of elections, all matters were discussed related to the elections, including--as agreed in London--the formation of a committee to hold and supervise the elections and guarantee that they are free. Furthermore, the status of the voters and the candidates in these elections has been determined. The method of elections whether candidates will be individual nominees in the elections or on the basis of a list, is now being studied. The question of the electoral constituencies will also be discussed. The subcommittee has been given the task to study the jurisdictions of the committee which the London meeting agreed to form and of the committee to supervise the elections. It has also been charged with defining how to guarantee free elections.

Regarding the responsibilities of the autonomous rule, it was essential to know the present responsibilities of the Israeli military rule in the West Bank and Gaza. It was also essential to specify these jurisdictions. After a comprehensive review and some questions to the Israeli side--questions were actually asked, as is clear from what has been read to you--the Israelis have agreed to supply the subcommittee with all it has asked for. It became evident to us at the meeting that there are cretain areas that require more study. Therefore, this subcommittee has been authorized to seek the aid of experts and at the same time pinpoint all points of agreement or disagreement and to submit these to the meeting to be held in late January. [end recording]

Khalil, Burg Press Conference

NC191610 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Dec 79 NC

[Excerpts] The seventh round of the Palestinian autonomy negotiations, which was held at the Mena House Hotel in Al-Jizah, ended today. The Egyptian, U.S. and Israeli delegations participated in these negotiations.

At 1315 [as heard], the three chief delegates held a press conference during which a joint statement on the results of the seventh round of the discussions was read.

Answering a question, the prime minister explained that the autonomy talks will not take as long as the Rhodesian talks, which lasted 97 days, although we do not deny that there are points of disagreement. However, we have to pinpoint the points of disagreement. This is actually being done at present.

Asked if Egypt and Israel have agreed on the election of PLO members, Dr Mustafa Khalil said: The position of Egypt is that the elections will be held in the West Bank and Gaza and that the people residing there will participate in these elections. We have never discussed what sort of people will be elected. This matter is left for the Palestinian people themselves. We are seeking a framework of action which would guarantee the holding of free elections. We have set no conditions regarding who will vote.

Answering the same question, Israeli chief delegate Yosef Burg said: The Israeli Government considers it necessary to set conditions regarding who will be nominated or vote. This question will be studied.

Asked whether what has been achieved regarding the method of elections encourages the Palestinians to participate in these elections, Burg said: We are trying to make this method tempting to them so that they will participate in the elections. The Camp David agreement provides for the establishment of an administrative council only.

Commenting on Burg's statement, Dr Mustafa Khalil said: I do not agree with you on making specific definitions. What is important, though, is that we achieve results on the jurisdictions and responsibilities of the autonomous rule.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS ON BEGIN'S COMING ASWAN VISIT

NC200718 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 20 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 20 December--The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports that it has been decided to hold two separate working sessions between President Anwar as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin during Begin's visit to Aswan beginning 7 January. The Egyptian and Israeli delegations will also hold two sessions of talks.

It was decided at the meeting held between presidential office chief Hasan Kamil and Elyahu Ben-Elisar, chief of the Israeli prime minister's office, that Egyptian and Israeli television will relay live Begin's arrival and departure ceremonies.

About 300 international journalists and correspondents have applied to cover the 3-day visit. A 30-men delegation will accompany the Israeli prime minister on this visit.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES

NC192245 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 19 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 10 December--Central African Republic Vice President Henri Maidou arrived in Cairo tonight on a 2-week private visit to Egypt.

Aviation and tourism minister Dr Mahmud Amin 'Abd al-Hafiz received Maidou at the airport.

TANZANIAN PRESIDENT HOLDS TALKS WITH SADDAM HUSAYN

JN191055 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 December--The official party talks between Iraq and Tanzania began here today. The Iraqi side was led by President Saddam Husayn and the Tanzanian side was led by President Julius Kambarage Nyerere.

At the outset of the talks, President Saddam Husayn stressed the importance of such meetings in establishing strong relations among the developing countries and in boosting the process of construction and development. He added: We aspire that these meetings would be advanced steps toward expanding the fields of cooperation between Iraq and Tanzania so that we can effectively and seriously contribute to deepening the basic concepts of the nonalined movement in the international community and in the service of mankind.

Further Report

JN191508 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1425 GMT 19 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 December--The first round of official and party talks between Iraq and Tanzania were concluded today.

The Iraqi side was led by President Saddam Husayn, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command secretary, and the Tanzanian side was led by President Julius Kambarage Nyerere, leader of the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania.

An official source said that the 2-hour talks dealt with bilateral cooperation and ways of strengthening it to serve the interests of the two peoples and their struggle for progress and construction and against imperialism and racial discrimination. The talks also dealt with cooperation within the framework of the nonalined movement and the strengthening of the movement's role in all international activities so that it will occupy its prominent place in the service of mankind.

President Saddam Husayn accompanied his guest, President Julius Kambarage Nyerere, on a tour during which they visited the Iraqi general establishment for textiles in Al-Qazimiyah in Baghdad.

POPULAR FRONT FOR LIBERATION OF OMAN LEADER ARRIVES

JN182045 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 18 December--A delegation from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman [PFLO] led by PFLO Executive Committee Chairman 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Qadi arrived in Baghdad today on a 10-day visit to Iraq.

Al-Qadi said that the PFLO delegation will discuss with the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command events in the Arab arena and the development of the relations of struggle between the PLFO and the Ba'th Party.

Meets Deputy Prime Minister

JN191758 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 December--Na'im Hanif Haddad, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command member and Iraqi deputy prime minister, met here this evening with the delegation from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman [PFLO], which is headed by PFLO Executive Committee Chairman 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Qadi.

The two sides discussed relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the PFLO in the Arab area, the Arab Gulf region in particular.

The PFLO delegation arrived in Baghdad last night on a visit of several days to Iraq.

ARGENTINIAN TRADE SECRETARY MEETS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

JN191414 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1347 GMT 19 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 December--Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi today received Argentine Secretary of State for Trade and International Economic Negotiations Alejandro Manuel Estrada. The two ministers discussed bilateral relations in various fields and ways of strengthening them, the possibility of developing political relations, the intensification of contacts and the exchange of delegations.

Sign Trade Agreement

JN192007 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 19 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 December--An agreement on trade cooperation between Iraq and Argentina was signed here today. It was signed on the Iraqi side by RCC Member and Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali and on the Argentine side by Secretary of State for Trade and International Economic Negotiations Alejandro Manuel Estrada.

The agreement provides for expanding the volume of trade by means of a joint plan prepared annually by the two countries' trade establishments. [Words indistinct] the formation of a joint trade cooperation committee, which will hold meetings annually to follow up the implementation of the trade exchange plan and to organize economic relations.

PRIME MINISTER BADRAN TENDERS RESIGNATION

JN191813 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Dec 79 JN

[Text of Prime Minister Mudar Badran's message to King Husayn on 19 December tendering the resignation of the government]

[Text] His Royal Hashemite Majesty King Husayn: I extend to your majesty my heartfelt loyalty, love and reverence. You have honored me, your majesty, by letting me shoulder ministerial responsibilities in serving our dear homeland and our glorious nations' causes under your Hashemite banner, which has been waving since the dawn of the Arab renaissance.

I have worked for more than 40 months, inspired by your blessed patronage and led by your noble guidance. My colleagues and I have never spared any effort to fulfill your aspirations for the prosperity of your people and the victory of your nation. In doing this, we have been armed with our deep faith in your wise leadership and guided by your invaluable confidence.

Your majesty, I have a feeling of satisfaction and peace of mind for what the government has achieved under your leadership on both the domestic and foreign levels during this period characterized by successive events that have affected the whole area. We have been able to emerge from all these events with stronger faith and more determination to continue the march of benevolence and development.

Today, as I proudly and gratefully recall your instructions and encouragement to work for the fulfillment of your aspirations, for the prosperity of this people and the victory of this nation, and as we approach the 1980's, I hereby tender the resignation of my government, providing the opportunity for all those who are competent and loyal to shoulder this trust and resume the march of benevolence, under the leadership, to bring about your noble goals.

May God preserve you and grant you aid and success.

[Signed] Mudar Badran, Amman, 19 December.

Resignation Accepted

JN191817 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Dec 79 JN

[Letter from King Husayn to Prime Minister Mudar Badran accepting the resignation of the government on 19 December]

[Text] Dear Brother His Excellency Mudar Badran, may God preserve him.

I send you and your colleagues the ministers my greetings, coupled with sincere love and great appreciation. You have, dear brother, been an example to be followed in view of your true sincerity, work and proposals throughout more than 40 months for the sake of the march of beloved Jordan during the flood of successive events which we and the region have experienced from our position in the heart of our large homeland. Since the beginning, your excellency, and for many years I have known you to be an example of integrity and loyalty to the homeland and the throne.

While accepting the government's resignation, hoping you will continue to shoulder your responsibilities until the new government is formed, I view the future with confidence and hope.

I hope to see you and every one of your brother colleagues, God willing, in the vanguard of the homeland's men and soldiers as well as in the march of good for the attainment of hopes and aspirations for the welfare of the homeland.

With my best personal wishes and gratitude.

[Signed] Your brother, Husayn ibn Talal. Amman, 19 December 1979.

HUSAYN ASKS SHARAF TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT

JN191820 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Dec 79 JN

[Text of letter from King Husayn to Royal Court Chief 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf charging him with the formation of a new government on 19 December 1979]

[Text] Dear brother Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, may God protect him. A brotherly Hashemite greeting accompanied by my confidence in you. I know you to be a person who believes in the mission with which God's will has honored us to carry to the people in the interest of the heart of the great Arab homeland, Jordan, and in the flag which we have been honored to carry from those who preceded us along the road of struggle in the interest of the Arabs and their progress.

I know you to be a generous, qualified, capable and sincere brother. I have the pleasure of entrusting you with the responsibility of forming and heading the new government in view of the resignation of the government of brother Mudar Badran, so that the process of construction will be consolidated and strengthened.

The present circumstances are critical. The Arabs are being shaken by storms and are surrounded by dangers to their distinctive identity, tolerant ideology, their pure and dear land, the future of their cause and generations and the requirements of their steadfastness and victory. These storms are the storms of fragmentation and fumbling, the chauvinism of regional, fanatical and tribal divisions and new things that divide the nations unity, weaken its strength and capability and dig it its solid structure from within and from outside, in conflict with its heritage, the factors of its strength, and its future.

In the battle for the nation's survival and future our Jordan has a role and responsibility; Jordan which champions justice and says what it believes; the Jordan of honor and of a determined, sincere, serious, vigilant and united family; the Jordan of honest principles and values, founded on solid eternal bases and open to the world, confident in itself, aware of its destiny.

Hence, my choice of your person in the present critical circumstances, because you are, as I always hope, for all the people, seeking only God's satisfaction and the judgement of coming generations.

While I wish you and your colleagues success in discharging your duties I shall put the following principles before you:

1. The strength of our dear Jordan is in its ambition, in being constantly forward-looking and in its desire to always surpass itself.

Therefore, we need a new leap forward in all fields so Jordan can demonstrate that it is always ahead in all fields and is a pioneer in looking toward social, economic and political progress. The Jordanian state must choose this particular time in an area where currents are rising and concepts are confused, so as to release the constructive forces of rejuvenation and underline its commitment to the aims of comprehensive renaissance with confidence and clarity of vision so that Jordan will be an example of ever-renewing renaissance which springs from history and always progresses.

2. The state must make progress a comprehensive action in which all Jordanian people participate and shoulder their responsibility toward their homeland. There is no renaissance in which the people do not take part. Therefore, the government is urged to mobilize citizens on all levels in a movement of national development and is called upon to make renaissance and national construction primarily a citizens' responsibility. This is because the homeland is theirs and the future is theirs, and the problems can only be resolved by the full and close cooperation of the people based on mutual confidence, common belief in the homeland and full partnership in the development efforts and the formulation of national institutions that carry the homeland into the future.

3. The economic and social problems our Jordanian society is facing today in view of the stage of its development, or as a result of being affected by the international situation, are problems that require scientific and well-studied solutions and the designation of the best of Jordan's minds in economic, development and scientific fields to study them and find solutions. Therefore, I call on the government to lay down clearly the priorities of the national problems. I call on the government to mobilize and recruit the best of our country's talents and dedicate them to the solution of these economic, production, supply and construction problems and to develop basic social services as part of specific programs to be formulated by the government to meet these efforts, so that our society will be able to overcome these problems and achieve the maximum effectiveness in organizing state services and improving the efficiency of its apparatus.

4. Jordan must maintain its active movement in Arab and international domains so as to serve the Arab nation's interests, national causes and the mission which this country embodies. If Jordan has sincerely, tirelessly and actively sought in the past to strengthen Arab solidarity, build bridges of confidence among the Arabs and advance the cause of Palestinian Arab rights on every international level, its duty is to continue these efforts, always support its nation and causes, and work for the Palestinian cause sincerely, honorably and with determination so that the nation will achieve victory and a just and honorable peace that is compatible with our rights and stems from our principles.

5. Our strength is supported by the strength, efficiency and discipline of our Arab army and armed forces. The government is called upon to strengthen our armed forces with modern equipment and care and support in every field, so that the Arab army will remain ahead in training, equipment, discipline and efficiency. This is our great national duty. This is also our duty toward our entire nation, whose protective shield is our army, which is in the vanguard of steadfastness and sacrifice.

6. Imbuing young generations with a high ethical and patriotic education is one of the noblest duties. Of particular importance is concentrating on the requirements of renaissance and the country's needs to prepare the youth to carry out their duties well. It is necessary to revise the philosophy of education, its politics and methods and to concentrate on the youth and future and care for our coming generations, for their spirit, minds, morals and health so that they will be equal to the challenges the nation is facing.

I support you with all my energies and capabilities for the sake of the ideal homeland to which we aspire. May God support us all and grant us success.

[Signed] Your brother, Husayn ibn Talal.
Amman, 19 December 1979.

Sharaf Acceptance

JN192002 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Dec 79 JN

["Text" of Royal Court Chief 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf's message to King Husayn on 19 December accepting the king's request to form a new government]

[Text] Your Majesty, my dearly beloved king, may God support you. I extend to your majesty my greatest reverence, sincerest loyalty and love. I have received with great thanks, respect and the sincerest feeling of great responsibility and honor the letter in which you entrust me with forming a new cabinet that will assume the responsibilities of government under your enlightening leadership through the forthcoming stage on the path of construction and work, whose foundations you have laid down for our homeland.

This generous request to form a new government is indeed a trust and honor, since the assumption of official, direct responsibility under our homeland's present circumstances and within the framework of the unique directives that you have laid down is a burden only easily shouldered by those who believe in the homeland and its ambitious, courageous leader.

The responsibility of marching with the homeland under your directives is a step toward self-expression and new scopes and is indeed a great historical burden which my colleagues and I feel stronger and more capable of shouldering while we hold the belief that our homeland, Jordan, is a base with a message that goes beyond its direct border, and that your majesty, as this country's leader, embodies its living message for itself, its nation and all Arabs. We pledge that we will be up to this great responsibility first and foremost through our loyalty, a loyalty which has priority over our ability to achieve, and our sincerity toward you and the sons of the people of our beloved Jordan in order to serve the homeland and kindle enthusiasm toward it and build a prosperous future for it, a future of work and benevolence. At the same time, we pledge that we will be working with all the sincerity, enthusiasm and energy we can muster in order to be up to this rare honor, the honor to contribute to pushing the homeland one step forward and kindling the potential enthusiasm harbored by our citizens in order to work, produce and construct under your historic leadership.

The team comprising the loyal sons of the people, with whom I shall be cooperating, will work toward successive achievements on the path outlined by your majesty's letter in which you entrust me with the formation of the government.

Indeed, as your majesty has stated, it is the government's duty to make the march forward a comprehensive move in which all sons of the Jordanian people participate and shoulder responsibilities toward their homeland. Thus, we will exert efforts, as your majesty has requested, to release the forces of constructive rejuvenation in our homeland, mobilize the citizens on all levels of economic, development and social fields to formulate scientific solutions to all the problems faced by our society, and march on the path toward implementing it.

We shall not relinquish the role that Jordan has chosen for itself in its Arab homeland; namely, of effective movement to serve the Arab nation, the pan-Arab issues and the message that is embodied in this country. As you have always affirmed, we will work for the issue of Palestinian rights with great loyalty, honor and determination in our march, God willing, on the path toward achieving a final victory for the nation, an end which every loyal team that shoulders responsibility under your victorious banner aspires to. While I submit to your majesty the names of my colleagues the ministers who will share with me the responsibility of the dear trust, I would like to request your majesty to issue a royal decree to form a cabinet.

May God keep you, consolidate your steps and give strength to our dear Jordan under your historic leadership.

[Signed] Your loyal servant, 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf. Amman, 19 December 1979.

NEW GOVERNMENT MEMBERS ANNOUNCED IN ROYAL DECREE

JN191645 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Dec 79 JN

["Text" of royal decree announcing the formation of a new Jordanian Government on 19 December 1979]

[Text] We, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in view of the resignation of Prime Minister Mudar Badran, and after consulting Article 35 of the constitution decree the following:

Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf is appointed prime minister, minister of foreign affairs and minister of defense. In accordance with the prime minister's designation:
Dr Qasim ar-Rimawi is appointed minister of agriculture;
Najib Irshaydat is appointed minister of justice;
'Umar an-Nabulsi is appointed minister of labor, reconstruction and development;
Salim Masa'dah is appointed minister of finance;
Ma'an Abu Nuwar is appointed minister of public works;
Dr Muhammad Nuri Shafiq is appointed minister of education;
Dr Muhammad 'Addub az-Zabin is appointed minister of communications;
Hasan Ibrahim is appointed minister of state:
Kamil ash-Sharif is appointed minister of awqaf, Islamic affairs and holy places;
Marwan al Qasim is appointed minister of state for foreign affairs;
Sulayman 'Arar is appointed minister of state for prime minister's affairs;
Eng 'Ali as-Suhaymat is appointed minister of state for prime minister's affairs and minister of transport;
Dr Sa'id al-Tall is appointed minister of information;
'Ali al-Bashir is appointed minister of interior;
Dr Zuhayr Malhas is appointed minister of health;
Jamal ash-Sha'ir is appointed minister of municipal and rural affairs;
Muwaffaq al-Fawwaz is appointed minister of tourism and antiquities;
Tahir Hikmat is appointed minister of culture and youth;
Mrs In'am al-Mufty is appointed minister of social development;
Dr Jawad al-'Anani is appointed minister of supplies;
Eng 'Ali an-Nusur is appointed minister of industry and trade.

Decreed from our Basman Palace in Amman, 30 Muharram 1400 Hegira, corresponding to 19 December 1979.

New Royal Court Chief

JN191900 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Prime Minister Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf and the ministers have taken the constitutional oath in the presence of His Majesty King Husayn. Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad al-Lawzi and Minister of Court 'Amir Khammash attended the swearing-in ceremony.

A royal decree was issued appointing Ahmad al-Lawzi chief of the Royal Hashemite Court as of today.

NEW CABINET REPORTEDLY TO ALLOW FEDAYEEN ACTION

JN201002 Doha in Arabic 0850 GMT 20 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 20 December--The Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH today cites reliable sources in Beirut as saying that the new Jordanian cabinet, under Sharif Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, will carry out an important political task: the restoration of Palestinian fedayeen action to the Jordanian arena, under specific conditions.

The sources did not reveal the nature of the conditions for the restoration of Palestinian action but said that it will be implemented during the first half of next year. The sources pointed out that this subject was discussed in detail during PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jordan earlier in December, during which he was accompanied by Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, one of the top resistance leaders.

The sources added: During the visit, Arafat's talks dealt with the issue of handing over the executive authority in Jordan during the coming stage to Sharif Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, since he enjoys the trust of the Palestinian resistance and is considered in Palestinian circles to be an acceptable political figure for an open dialog.

MINISTER BUTRUS MAKES STATEMENT AFTER CABINET MEETING

NC191410 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Dec 79 NC

[Excerpts] President Ilyas Sarkis today chaired a cabinet meeting, which was attended by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the ministers. Following the meeting, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus said: We received no information from the Security Council today [on date of the meeting on the renewal of UNIFIL's mandate]. This means that contacts are still continuing.

On the issue of the Iranian volunteers, Minister Butrus said: Contacts are continuing. I believe that some of the volunteers have arrived in Syria. I also believe the Syrian Government is handling the issue with the necessary means. He added that the government has held contacts with Syria on this.

AL-AS'AD SAYS SYRIA WILL NOT LET VOLUNTEERS CROSS BORDER

NC191520 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Dec 79 NC

[Text] This afternoon Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad stated that the question of the Iranian volunteers should not be exaggerated. He said according to his knowledge Syria has promised not to send the Iranian volunteers across the border to Lebanon. However, Speaker al-As'ad said, Israel wants to make an issue of this subject and we should not be deceived by the game to which Israel might resort.

PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS WELCOMES UN RESOLUTION

NC200719 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Dec 79 NC

[Text] The initial Lebanese reaction to the UN Security Council's resolution was a statement by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss welcoming the resolution.

In a statement to our correspondent this morning, Prime Minister al-Huss said: We welcome the UN Security Council's resolution renewing the mandate of the UN forces, particularly its affirmation of Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and stability within its internationally recognized border. The resolution also notes the Lebanese Government's determination to draw up a working program in consultation with the UN secretary general for fully restoring the government's authority in southern Lebanon in accordance with Resolution 425 and reaffirms the validity of the armistice agreement.

It is our duty today, Prime Minister al-Huss added, to act as quickly as possible to adopt the necessary steps to secure the implementation of Resolution 425, namely the deployment of the UN forces in its entire area of operations up to the internationally recognized southern border and the full restoration of the legitimate authority in that area.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: On this occasion, we thank the UN Secretariat and the UNIFIL command in southern Lebanon for their efforts in helping to put an end to the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and to enable the Lebanese state to restore its full sovereignty in the area.

GOVERNOR OF NORTH RESIGNS AFTER DEMONSTRATION

NC191938 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1915 GMT 19 Dec 79 NC

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon correspondent reported tonight that the governor of the north, Iskandar Ghibril, has handed in his resignation to the president. The reason for the resignation is that demonstrators in Tripoli today marched on Government House where they damaged doors and offices. When the governor resisted, the demonstrators beat him up.

IRANIAN STUDENT ORGANIZATION DENOUNCES PANAMA

NC200821 Beirut AS-SAFIR in Arabic 19 Dec 79 p 8 NC

[Text] The organization of Iranian Muslim students in Lebanon yesterday released a statement expressing surprise at the Panamanian Government's submission to U.S. imperialist orders to allow the deposed shah to enter the country.

The statement said the United States had been forced to deport criminal Mohammad Reza Pahlavi because it could not oppose Islam and Muslims in Iran.

Meanwhile, the students patriotic front will hold a rally in support of the Islamic Revolution in Iran at the faculty of science in Al-Hadath at 1230 Thursday.

PLO PAPER: IRANIAN VOLUNTEERS URGE UPRISING AGAINST IMPERIALISM

JN191133 Beirut FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH in Arabic 8 Dec 79 pp 1, 2 JN

[Text] The Iranian volunteers of the revolutionary organization of the Islamic Republic masses issued a statement on 7 December calling upon all oppressed and persecuted peoples, especially the peoples of Egypt, Morocco and Lebanon, to rise against their savage enemies in defense of their rights and the rights of Islam and to strongly resist all desperate attempts by the imperialist forces of evil and aggression to wipe out their cultures. In their statement, the volunteers assert that victory will be for the oppressed peoples in Iran, Lebanon, Palestine and everywhere. The volunteers reaffirmed their support for the Palestinian revolution and the heroic Palestinian people until the liberation of all Palestinian soil. The following is text of the statement:

O oppressed peoples of the world who have suffered gross injustice and exploitation at the hands of the despots; O nation of Islam whose resources, efforts, production and achievements have been plundered by the imperialists and Zionists: You are called upon today to pounce on your savage enemies.

O oppressed people of Egypt; O people of Morocco who are groaning under the yoke of exploitation; O free people of Lebanon; O masses of the Arab nation wherever you may be, from the Maghreb to the east; O oppressed peoples who are groaning under the yoke of injustice and exploitation at the hands of the imperialists: You are all called upon to rise in defense of your rights and the rights of the whole Muslim nation. You are called upon to strongly resist the desperate attempts of the imperialist forces of evil and aggression to crush your cultures.

O followers of the Prophets Moses, Jesus and Muhammad: Your prophets call upon you not to submit to injustice and tyranny, especially from the faction of imperialist despots in the U.S. administration and the Zionist black house, who want you to abandon your faith and the firmly established creeds of your prophets and who also want to gag your mouths.

By God, it is a thousand times better to die honorably than to live a life of humiliation and subjugation. Therefore, join the front of the faithful. May the will to die triumph over the will to live until the dawn of a real life rises. Join the Iranian people and the Islamic Revolution under the leadership of the Imam and leader of the revolution, Ayatollah Khomeyni, so that we can free ourselves and our countries from the chains of humiliation and injustice and so that we can liberate ourselves from the domination of the unjust rulers and their international overlords. Let us tighten the noose around the necks of the despots everywhere and choke them to death. Otherwise, they will not keep their hands off the destinies of our countries, peoples, the Arab and Muslim nations and oppressed peoples all over the world.

O oppressed peoples of the world: rise and follow in the steps of the imam. Rest assured that victory will be for the oppressed peoples in Iran, Lebanon, Palestine and everywhere. The will of faith and the power of justice will definitely triumph in the end. Let the whole world know that the Iranian people and their victorious revolution under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni will continue the struggle until the last drop of blood of their revolutionaries and freedom fighters for the sake of all revolutionaries and all oppressed peoples, especially the Palestinian revolution and the heroic Palestinian people, and until the liberation of all Palestinian soil.

[Signed] Iranian volunteers of the revolutionary organization of the Islamic Republic masses.

LIBYAN

AL-QADHDHAFI WARNS OF CONSEQUENCES OF U.S. PRESSURE ON IRAN

LD201002 Tripoli JANA in English 0800 GMT 20 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Dec 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stressed that the money siphoned away by the shah to America during his rule should be returned to the Iranian people, to whom it rightfully belongs. This money, Colonel al-Aadhdhafi said, was robbed by the shah.

In a statement to the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY yesterday, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi pointed out that since the shah has not asked for political asylum, the students' demand for his extradition is a legal request.

He warned that an economic or military alliance of the Western countries with America against Iran would mean a declaration of a new crusade by these countries. He said, "It is clear that Libya would endeavour to form a sacred alliance of the masses which could estend from Jakarta to Nouakchott in defence of the Iranian Revolution. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi announced that oil would be the key weapon to be used by Libya and Iran against these countries.

'SOURCES' OFFER EXPLANATIONS FOR LIBYA-PLO SPLIT

LD191437 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 14 Dec 79 p 13 LD

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Numerous explanations have been given to the dispute which has erupted between the Libyan Government and the PLO and which prompted the Libyan authorities to occupy the PLO offices in Libya and expel the PLO representatives. Despite the fact that the dispute between Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and the Fatah organization has been known for some time, since Libya cut off its aid to that organization and gave it instead to the PFLP (George Habash) and other groups, the development of the dispute has drawn the attention of the observers and reminded them of the Palestinian-Iraqi war which took place over a year ago.

Arab diplomatic sources have stated that the Libyan authorities took this action against the organization because they have information proving that the organization's office in Tripoli had gathered information about the nuclear program which Libya is carrying out in cooperation with Pakistan, and also discovered the sources of and the methods by which Libya is procuring uranium. Other sources, however, attribute the dispute to the disappearance of Imam Musa as-Sadr.

JALLUD RECEIVES IRAN CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR

LD191640 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Dec 79 LD

[Excerpts] Tripoli--Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud has received 'Ali Reza Nowbari, governor of the Iranian Central Bank, who is now on a visit to the Jamahiriyah. Nowbari conveyed to Staff Major Jallud the greetings of Abolhasan Bani Sadr, member of the Iranian Revolution Council and minister of finance and economy.

He also expressed his appreciation and gratitude for the total support and the fraternal backing which the Great 1 September Revolution [words indistinct] rendered to the popular Islamic (?revolution) in Iran, before, during and after the triumph of the revolution. He lauded in particular the firm fraternal Islamic stand adopted by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in the face of the American imperialist campaigns against the Muslim Iranian people and the (?unjust) economic war with which America is trying to abort the Islamic Revolution [words indistinct].

Jallud welcomed the governor of the Iranian Central Bank and stressed to him that the decision of the masses of the Libyan Arab people is that any aggression on the Iranian people and their revolution, politically, economically or militarily, is an agression on the Libyan people and their revolution and that the Libyan people will meet this aggression not by statements and words, but by responsible Islamic action.

Staff Major Jallud expressed full understanding of an support for the Iranian stands, stressing the gravity of the unjust American decision to the entire world financial system and the danger constituted by this new imperialist trend to the peoples' deposits and to trust in the world banking system as a whole.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI SENDS MESSAGES TO AL-QADHDHAFI, 'ARAFAT

JN192122 Khartoum SUNA in English 1745 GMT 19 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 19, (SUNA)--President Numayri of Sudan sent two written messages to Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Yasir 'Arafat leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

The message dealt with latest developments between Libya and the PLO.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr handed the messages to the Libyan ambassador and the PLO representative in Khartoum today.

FINANCE MINISTER RETURNS FROM TALKS ON DEBTS IN UK

JN192038 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 19 December--Finance and National Economy Minister Badr ad-Din Sulayman returned to Khartoum from the United Kingdom today following a 1-week visit during which he held talks with representatives of international banks in the United Kingdom on rescheduling Sudan's financial obligations to these banks.

BRIEFS

NETHERLANDS LOAN--Khartoum, 19 December--The Netherlands Government has granted Sudan a 44 million guilder loan, the equivalent of $22 million guilder loan, the equivalent of $22 million, as financial and technical aid for 1980. The Netherlands charge d'affaires in Khartoum today officially communicated this decision by the Netherlands Government to Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, vice president and foreign minister, and to National Planning Minister Nasr ad-Din Mustafa. [Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Dec 79 JN]

WESTERN SAHARA

KUNA: POLISARIO BESIEGING THREE LARGEST SAHARA TOWNS

LD201008 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0725 GMT 20 Dec 79 LD

[Excerpt] Algiers--The POLISARIO Front has said that its revolutionaries are now besieging the three largest towns under Moroccan control in the Western Sahara, and it called on Moroccan King Hassan II to enter into urgent negotiations to resolve the dispute in northwest Africa.

POLISARIO Front Political Bureau member Omar Mansour told KUNA last night thatthe POLISARIO forces, backed by Algeria, are now besieging the town of El Aaiun, the capital of the Sahara, and the towns of Smara and Dakhlah (Villa Cisneros). He said that these are "the remaining" Saharan towns under Moroccan domination extended to the Sahara following the withdrawal of Spain in 1975.

Mansour said that the POLISARIO "Saharan Liberation Army" has destroyed three Moroccan military bases in El Bouirat, Zag and (Abatih) within a framework which he called the all-out military campaign it recently launched. He said that the front shot down three Moroccan fighters-French-made Mirages--and captured a pilot, 1st Lt (Mu'ti al-Mahjub), and killed several hundred Moroccan troops.

Mansour reiterated the front's invitation to King Hassan II to enter into urgent negotiations with the POLISARIO and to accept international organizations' resolutions "to end this problem between brothers and put an end to this war which is benefiting no one but imperialism and Zionism."

PROGRESS, DIFFERENCES REPORTED AFTER AUTONOMY TEAMS MEET

TA191130 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Dec 79 TA

[Text] About an hour ago, another round of autonomy talks ended in Cairo. Our correspondent says that the differences about East Jerusalem and the powers of the self-administration have reemerged. This dispute has not yet been settled, but at the same time the parties have reached agreement on two issues: First, the working teams' recommendations on the election procedures for the self-administration and the list of voters have been accepted; second, the working teams were directed to set up a model of the self-administration authority's powers in the territories. Our correspondent says that the issue of this authority is in dispute and it is difficult to foresee at the moment how the working teams will be able to shape a model that would be acceptable to all.

The head of the Israeli delegation to the talks, Yosef Burg, has told our correspondent that the basic differences of opinion still remain, but there was definitely a breakthrough toward the Begin-As-Sadat summit, and this is not merely a procedural breakthrough.

Burg Interview

TA191143 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 19 Dec 79 TA

[Interview with Interior Minister and head of the Israeli autonomy team Dr Yosef Burg by Razi Barqa'i, special envoy in Cairo, on 19 Dec--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Dr Burg, would it be correct to say that today's meeting was only a procedural meeting, since the main problems still remain for As-Sadat and Begin to solve at the Aswan summit?

[Answer] I would not define the meeting as a procedural meeting, as today we decided that the issue of the modalities [last word in English] should proceed and begin tackling the issue of the model [of the powers of the self-administration council]. This is a substantial thing that has not yet been agreed upon. To repeat, due to the good spirit that prevailed among the working teams in Tel Aviv and thanks to the preparatory work that we, the heads of the delegations, have done last week and this morning as well--yesterday I began a certain revolution--things were well prepared and therefore there is a significance.

[Question] The impression is that the main issues are always evaded, that marginal issues are being tackled, only the technical things, whereas we have not reached the roots of things. The roots of the matter are: the powers of the self-administration, the right to be elected, the cooperation of the Palestinians and so on. How does one extract oneself from this entanglement?

[Answer] First, by not creating it. If indeed the impression is currently created, it means that someone has created that impression. There is no justification. If you talk about the right to vote, then we have decided certain things; if you talk about the right to be elected, we have decided certain things. There are matters over which we differ, and all signs indicate that they will remain. These are the issues of East Jerusalem, as they define it, and regarding the powers. The Israeli side, at any rate, has made it clear that not all the authorities currently given to the military government will be transferred, and that those that will be transferred will not be transferred automatically. Well, then the disputed issues are known to us and as much as we were able, and according to our directives, we have done a good job in a good atmosphere and with results that are not bad.

[Barqa'i] Thank you.

Return of Delegation

TA191738 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 19 Dec 79 TA

[Text] The Israeli autonomy team returned from the autonomy round in Cairo a few minutes ago. One of the delegation members, the director general of the prime minister's office, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, will probably be Israel's first ambassador to Egypt. Razi Barqa'i spoke with him in Cairo at noon today. [begin recording]

[Barqa'i] Dr Ben-Elisar, has the site of the Israeli Embassy in Cairo been located already?

[Answer] Not yet. We have expressed our wishes but we know that the situation here is very difficult from the point of view of housing, both in regard to offices and in regard to apartments and houses. I assume that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry will help us but the site has not been located yet, no.

[Question] When will you submit your credentials to President as-Sadat?

[Answer] This is a very direct question, I should say. According to the agreement, the Israeli ambassador will submit his credentials on 26 February, the ambassadors will be exchanged on 26 February.

[Question] Is it absolutely clear to the Egyptians that the credentials of their ambassador will be submitted to our president in Jerusalem?

[Answer] All ambassadors sent to Israel submit their credentials to the president in Jerusalem. I am ready to cite an Egyptian source on the matter--since General Shawkat [the Egyptian Sinai commander] said it is inconceivable that the president of the State of Israel will go to a different place in order to receive the credentials of any ambassador.

[Question] What progress has been made on the normalization issue? Have you made achievements, have you reached conclusions on this issue?

[Answer] Yes. Some conclusions were reached in the meeting held in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry yesterday with the participation of Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and the director general of our Foreign Ministry, Yosef Ciechanover. Not everything has been concluded yet but there are several positive conclusions. Several other matters still require clarification.

[Question] Are free crossing of the common borders and operation of regular flights among the positive conclusions?

[Answer] We should not forget that all this should already begin on 26 January. However, whether it is exactly then or a few days later will not make much difference. There are no final or concrete conclusions yet but I do not think it will take long to have them. [end recording]

Normalization Schedule

TA191729 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Dec pp 1, 7 TA

[By Ilan Kefir]

[Text] The Israeli Embassy in Egypt will be set up in the Zamalek quarter in Cairo, whereas the Egyptian Embassy in Israel will be situated in Tel Aviv.

In 5 weeks, on 26 January 1980, consulates of the two countries will open in Cairo and Tel Aviv, and they will handle routine issues between the two countries.

On that day the IDF will conclude its withdrawal to the Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line, and the land frontier between the two countries will be opened to free tourism. One month later, on 26 February, Israel and Egypt will exchange ambassadors.

In the next few days, preparations will begin at the embassy sites in Zamalek and Tel Aviv. It has been learned that the house for the Israeli Embassy in Zamalek had belonged to a wealthy Jewish family. It is situated in a prestigious quarter of the Egyptian capital and is well secured, as it is surrounded by a lake.

These details were agreed upon last night in a working meeting between Acting Foreign Minister Dr Butrus Ghali and Israel's Foreign Ministry Director General Yosef Ciechanover. Dr Ghali told the YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent last night: "The normalization will be effected in full. We shall honor every clause and word of the peace treaty. The opening of the consulates is the first important step in the development of relations between the two countries."

MA'ARIV on Egyptian Requests

TA191159 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Dec 79 p 5 TA

[Editorial: "Relations--Not Liaison Offices"]

[Text] Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali informed African states which had severed their relations with Israel at Egypt's bidding, that they may now resume those relations.

Butrus Ghali added that these states could use their diplomatic relations with Israel to press for a Palestinian solution. In other words, the diplomatic relations, their existence or cessation, will always hang like a threat over Israel, to accomodate Egypt's wishes.

Egypt is now in distress. Unlike Israel it is not accustomed to living in political isolation and it fears a wave of political retaliations (a severing of economic and diplomatic relations) on the part of Arab states when Israel's Embassy in Cairo opens. That is why Cairo is interested in describing its embassy in Israel as a pro-Palestinian act, as a lever to exert pressure on Israel, and that is why it does not wish to remain alone in setting up relations with Israel. In the absence of Arab states, it is looking for African countries to follow suit.

One may understand these difficulties, even ignore the "Palestinian explanation" in Egypt's interpretation of the normalization process. But one must not err about Egypt's motivations. It is not a benevolent deed by Egypt if Butrus Ghali tells the deputy prime minister of the Central African commonwealth that he may reopen his country's embassy in Israel. We have learned during the years of severed relations with Africa that diplomatic relations are not all important, and that it is also possible to maintain relations without official ceremonies. By extension, this realization means that we are not obligated to respond to the Egyptian request for setting up Egyptian liaison offices in Judaea and Samaria.

Egypt's Embassy in Israel, like all other foreign legations here, will be able to maintain contacts with the populace under Israeli rule.

Normalization of relations with Egypt means normal relations between two neighboring countries. A deviation from the norm by special liaison offices in problematic areas produces dangerous precedents and points of friction.

MA'ARIV ANALYZES U.S. CHANGE OF ATTITUDE TOWARD SAUDIS

TA161349 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Dec 79 p 5 TA

[Shmu'el Segev article: "Without Any Previous Notice to Israel"]

[Text] The U.S. Government decision to significantly increase the supply of arms to Saudi Arabia, like its previous decision to accelerate the modernization of the Egyptian Army, attests to the new U.S. political targets in the Persian Gulf area in the wake of the Khomeyni revolution in Iran.

Following the collapse of its bipolar policy in the Persian Gulf--which mainly relied on Iran and Saudi Arabia--Saudi Arabia's importance to the U.S. administration has increased, not only as an important source of relatively cheap oil but also as a base for intelligence activities against the Soviet Union and as an access to the Gulf area. Therefore, the United States has now decided to detach the question of arms supplies to Saudi Arabia from the issue of the balance of power between the Arab countries and Israel and to include the supply of arms in the framework of the balance of power in the Persian Gulf area only. In other words, the same unrestrained policy of arms supply which has recently collapsed in Iran is now repeating itself regarding Saudi Arabia.

The rise of the "Saudi orientation" in U.S. policy came in the wake of two very prominent considerations during the Iranian crisis. The first consideration referred to Israel and its status in the Middle East. The Iranian move from a moderate policy on the Israeli-Arab conflict during the shah's days to the current radical policy--as designed by Khomeyni--ruled out in advance the possibility of the United States using Israel as a basis for a possible U.S. military operation against Iran. In spite of the public "invitations" of Moshe Dayan, 'Ezer Weizman and other Israeli personalities, U.S. policymakers reached the conclusion that using Israel would dangerously disrupt its relations with Saudi Arabia, would call for a large U.S. presence to guard the oil shipping lanes and would encourage Iran to establish relations with additional radical elements in the Arab world. Such a development could threaten the Egyptian and Saudi regimes and could further increase tension between the Arab countries and Israel.

The moment the Washington administration became convinced that reliance on Israel entalied many dangers to U.S. interests, the Saudi option remained the only one among all the possibilities taken into consideration. Also, it emerged that there were far more possibilities for U.S. activities in Saudi Arabia than in Israel. The naval base in Al-Jubayl on the Persian Gulf as well as the base in Jidda on the Red Sea coast can already accommodate medium-sized U.S. warships, and if the bases are further expanded they could service larger warships. In its plans for developing the Saudi Army, the United States has so far emphasized the defense of the capital of Riyadh, the oil area in Dhahran and the Jidda-Mecca-Medina triangle.

However, in the wake of its decision to increase reliance on Saudi Arabia, the United States is inclined to develop other areas militarily to its strategic goals in the Persian Gulf area and enable more intensive intelligence activities.

Although the decision has already been made in Washington, Israel has no other choice but to warn of the implications, both regarding the Israeli-Arab conflict and the future of the Saudi regime itself.

Israel faces a double danger: a political one and a military one. In order to fulfill its strategic goals, Saudi Arabia might demand from the United States a price connected to the Israeli-Arab conflict such as U.S. recognition of the PLO and pressure on Israel to concede on the issue of Jerusalem.

If Israel refuses to give in on these two issues--as is expected to be the case--in case of a new Israeli-Arab war, Saudi Arabia might put its huge arms arsenals at the disposal of the Arab confrontation states just as it did during the Yom Kippur War and just as it is now providing its political services to the Arab rejectionist countries.

However, more than it endangers Israel, the U.S. decision to increase its arms deliveries to Saudi Arabia entails a grave menace to the stability of that country's monarchy and to the oil interests of the entire Western world. As proven by the Iranian experience, accelerated military modernization in an underdeveloped country can only increase the pace of revolution. A strong army does not always constitute a guarantee of a regime's well-being. In Iran's crucial period, the Iranian Army rapidly collapsed and control reverted to the fanatic Muslim militias.

Under normal conditions there would have been room for high-level consultations between Israel and the United States on the practical impact of the Iranian crisis and the ways to solve it. Far-reaching changes occurred in this area since the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty was signed on 26 March 1979. Therefore, there would have also been grounds to consider another visit by Prime Minister Menahem Begin to the U.S. capital. However, the moment the United States reached the conclusion that reliance on Israel would not serve its purposes in the Persian Gulf area, not only did early consultations become impossible but it did not even give Israel advance notice on its decision to supply arms to Saudi Arabia. In light of the grave implications of the U.S. decision, the question arises whether Israel should reconcile itself to this trend or whether it should not initiate a high-level discussion with the United States precisely during an election year when the two large parties tend to formulate their policies in all areas.

MA'ARIV on Nation's Predicament

TA171254 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Dec 79 p 17 TA

[Shmu'el Segev article: "Israel Is Seeking a Reply to the U.S. Arms Deal and to PLO's Rise in Europe"]

[Excerpts] The shadow of the Israeli failure to prevent the U.S. arms deal with Egypt and Saudi Arabia lastspring is now hanging over the discussions connected with how Israel should react to the new U.S. arms deals with these two countries.

This shadow has grown darker in view of the latest developments in Iran which have obliged the United States to "reassess its Middle East policy and formulate two immediate operational decisions:

A. The military strengthening of Egypt and Saudi Arabia together with speeding up of the preparations for increased U.S. maritime presence in the Red Sea, Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean.

B. Increased efforts to solve the Israeli-Arab conflict, giving first priority to the Palestinian issue.

Therefore, in all estimates of possible Israeli reactions to the new arms deals with Saudi Arabia and Egypt, one notes a tendency to avoid another failure in the attempt to foil them. Instead, Israel is focusing on an effort to increase its share in the Carter administration's economic and military aid programs. The assessment is that another failure on the issue will further uncover Israel's weaknesses and will enhance the U.S. public's recognition that its national interest today lies in Egypt rather than in Israel.

The U.S. decision to strengthen Saudi Arabia and Egypt was adopted because one of the countries, Saudi Arabia, is the most important oil reservoir at the disposal of the Western world today, and the other, Egypt, is not only an "oil carrier" (the Suez Canal and the Suez-Alexandria pipeline) but also the major defender of the oil route from the Persian Gulf to Western Europe. Any Israeli attempt to set out against the tendency to strengthen Saudi Arabia and Egypt will then be interpreted as an attempt to harm a U.S. national interest and is doomed to failure.

Israeli elements trying to sum up the past year's events in the Middle East arena point to two major developments that have stamped their mark on our region. These are the signing of the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement and the rise of Islam as a political power in the wake of the shah's deposition in Iran. These two developments have not been complementary to each other, though; they have rather run contrary to each other. So, for example, all the Arab countries set out against the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement but most of them fear the effect which Khomeyni's rise to power may have on their internal stability.

These tendencies have opened new possibilities for U.S. diplomacy, which explains the striving to find a speedy solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict, thus fortifying the Westen front in the Persian Gulf region. Hoping that a solution of the Palestinian problem will lead to renewed rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Egypt, the United States now wants to give a big push to the autonomy idea with the aim of satisfying the political aspirations of the Arabs in the territories.

Israeli elements already felt this U.S. tendency during the recent visit of the special U.S. Ambassador Sol Linowitz, who heads his country's autonomy delegation. This tendency has, however, been reinforced lately in a series of contacts held in Washington through conventional diplomatic channels. The U.S. administration has apparently reached the conclusion that it is no longer possible to prevent the fulfillment of the Palestinians' political aspirations and it therefore expects these aspirations to be realized via the autonomy plan agreed to at the Camp David talks.

These developments are currently serving as a topic for internal consultations in Israel. It seems that in part they were discussed at the recent Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem.

Israeli elements estimate that besides a practical discussion of issues pertaining to the autonomy talks and the implementation of the Egyptian-Israeli normalization, As-Sadat and Begin will dedicate a large part of their time to assessing the latest developments in the region in view of Khomeyni's rise to power in Iran and the effect of these developments on Israel's and Egypt's status in the international and Middle East arenas.

It seems then that the discussions held in Jerusalem this week will also be accompanied by consultations and exchanges of assessments with the United States and friendly West European countries. Only after Mr Begin's visit in Aswan at the beginning of next year will it be determined whether there is room to initiate a special visit by the Israeli prime minister to Washington for a similar exchange of assessments with President Carter.

WEST BANK MAYORS HOLD RALLY, CLOSED MEETING

TA192046 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1944 GMT 19 Dec 79 TA

[Text] Ramallah, 19 Dec--Several mayors from Judaea and Samaria held a closed meeting today in the hamlet of Bi'r Zayt, during which they made a decision to hold a large rally next week on the settlements issue.

The ITIM correspondent in Judaea and Samaria reports that at their last rally, held in Ramallah on Monday, severe arguments with the communists surfaced. The religious figures accused the communists of doing everything they could to control public opinion in the area. They also accused them of dictating the decisions in the name of the "committee for national purpose." [hav'adah lehakhvana le'umit]

Those people belonging to moderate PLO branches also complained against the communists, saying that the decision made at the rally to establish local committees for national guidance in fact harms PLO institutions, since only PLO institutions dictate national guidance. "You are dictating preprepared decisions to us and inviting us to rallies only to sign them. In the future we will oppose participation in such rallies if the decisions are not made after an argument about our views as well," these people claimed.

Other participants at the rally leveled criticism at the sumptuous reception given to Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah, where "regal fare" was presented. They said that such feasts should not be held when the Palestinian people was subject to enormous economic difficulties and mayors [from the West Bank] were pounding the streets of various Arab countries in order to collect contributions to strengthen the position of the inhabitants of the territories on their land.

The ITIM correspondent in Judaea and Samaria points out that the latest rallies have been closed to people from the communications media, but the organizers saw to it that the decisions were passed on to the journalists later as though they had been made unanimously by all the participants.

WEST BANKERS CLAIM 600 DUNAMS OF LAND SEIZED

TA161223 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Dec 79 p 6 TA

[By Yehuda Litani]

[Text] Inhabitants of the village of Bayt Immar, south of Gush 'Etzyon, yesterday claimed that members of the settlement of Migdal 'Oz in Gush 'Etzyon had seized 600 dunams of their land in order to expand their settlement. According to the villagers, they have certificates proving their ownership of the land in question. The villagers further claim that the settlers have fenced off the area and damaged fruit trees.

The villagers said that they had appealed to the military government in Bethlehem and were told that they would get compensation. The Bayt Immar villagers replied that they did not want any compensation and that they would appeal through legal processes.

Last night, sources in the military government said that, to the best of their knowledge, no land had been seized recently for the expansion of Migdal 'Oz, since all activities regarding that settlement's land were completed a long time ago.

BEGIN REPLIES TO 'AMIT CHARGE OF 'INADEQUATE' ACTION

TA191151 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Dec 79 TA

[Text] For the first time in several months, Prime Minister Menahem Begin replied from the Knesset podium to a motion for the agenda on a political issue. Me'ir 'Amit raised the issue of the situation in the area, arguing that a political earthquake can be felt but the Cabinet regards the event as though it has nothing to do with us. The Cabinet, 'Amit said, is burying its head in the sand and we will all have to pay the price. How long will we still be indifferent, 'Amit asked.

The prime minister replied by saying that the Cabinet is taking all the measures it can and there are no grounds for the claim that nothing is being done. What should one do, the prime minister asked? Bow our heads and spread despair and melancholy among the people or rather say the opposite: We shall overcome. There have already been difficult times, Begin said, and we overcame. We will do this again. He added that he does not understand why the Cabinet is to blame for the darkness brought about by the Islamic surge, accompanied by blind hatred toward us. Can an Israeli element be blamed for the defilement of the United Nations, the prime minister asked?

The issue has been transferred to the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee by consent of the majority of the Knesset members.

MINISTER LANDAU ANNOUNCES INTENTION TO LEAVE CABINET

TA191224 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Dec 79 p 4 TA

[Text] Transport Minister Hayim Landau informed Prime Minister Menahem Begin that due to poor health he has no desire to return to fulfill his duties as transport minister and that he is putting the portfolio at the prime minister's disposal.

FIJI PREMIER VISITS UNIFIL UNITS, ARRIVES FOR TALKS

TA181216 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 18 Dec 79 TA

[Text] Fiji's prime minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, visited his fellow countrymen serving in UNIFIL today. Then he returned [as heard] to Israel via Rosh Haniqra. Asked why the Fiji Islands send half of their armed forces to southern Lebanon, he replied that his people believe in peace, and to prove that they are even prepared to make sacrifices.

BEGIN SEES NO DANGER IN ARRIVAL OF IRANIAN VOLUNTEERS

TA181713 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Dec 79 TA

[Text] The Christian radio station in southern Lebanon has announced that a first group of volunteers from Iran has already arrived in Lebanon and is probably located in terrorist bases in the region of Beirut. This report has no confirmation from other sources.

Prime Minister Menahem Begin said that Israel faces no real danger from the arrival of Iranian volunteers in southern Lebanon. However, this development might violate the present calm there. Israel is vigilant in the face of any development, the prime minister said.

Begin spoke with our correspondent David Essing after meeting with Fijian Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara. Fiji has a unit in the UN force in Southern Lebanon.

BANGLADESH

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH MALTA

BK200219 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 20 Dec 79 BK

[Text] Bangladesh and Malta have decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level from today.

INDIA

UNCERTAINTY PERSISTS OVER ELECTIONS IN ASSAM

BK191015 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The Election Commission has denied it has received any suggestion from the chief election officer, Assam, for postponement of the poll in all the 14 Lok Sabha seats in the state. The chief election commissioner, Mr S.L. Sakhder, told newsmen in New Delhi today that he is going ahead with arrangements for polls in the three constituencies in Assam. Mr Sakhder said that the chief election officer of Assam, Mr K.S. Rao, has informed him that he did not make any statement suggesting the postponement of polls in the state.

Meanwhile, in Assam, work in government offices in central government undertakings including banks was affected when the employees abstained from their duties today. This was in protest against holding elections in the state as a mark of their noncooperation in the election process. The decision to abstain from the offices today and tomorrow has been taken by the action council of the government, nongovernment and semigovernment employees association. This is in response to a call by the All-Assam Students Union to the employees to noncooperate in the elections behind held against the will of the people. In Qauhati, work at the north frontier railway headquarters, the high courts, the state secretariat and others came to a stop as attendance was negligible. The essential services are, however, exempt from the purview of the movement. The situation in the Pandu-Malagaon area of greater Gauhati is reported to be peaceful. The curfew was relaxed today for 12 hours from 6 this morning.

Assam Situation Improving

BK200912 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Dec 79 BK

[Text] In Assam, the overall situation in Pandu Malegaon area of greater Gauhati continues to improve gradually. No untoward incidents have been reported. Official sources said in Gauhati that the curfew was relaxed for 15 hours today in view of the near normal situation. However, the curfew will be enforced at 9:00 tonight as a precautionary measure.

Meanwhile, the CRP [Central Reserve Police] and the police continued round-the-clock patrolling in the curfew-bound areas. Armed police pickets were also posted in some vulnerable places.

Meanwhile, on the second day of the noncooperation movement of the employees, work in all state and central government establishments in Dibrugarh has come to a standstill. Meanwhile, religious prayers have been arranged today throughout the district in memory of a student leader who was killed in Bhawanipur recently.

DELHI HIGH COURT ABSOLVES MRS GANDHI OF COMMISSION'S CHARGE

BK201038 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 20 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The Delhi high court absolved Mrs Indira Gandhi of the charge of offense for refusal to testify before the shah commission. The court held that Mrs Gandhi could not conceivably have committed the offense of refusal to make a statement before the shah commission for which she had been prosecuted before the chief metropolitan magistrate of Delhi.

DEVRAJ URS OUTLINES HIS PARTY'S POLICY

BK200534 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 19 Dec 79 BK

[Election broadcast by the president of Congress-U party, Mr Devraj Urs--recorded]

[Text] This midterm election for the Lok Sabha in which we would participate in early January next is, perhaps, the most crucial election of the postindependent India. On its outcome will hang the destiny of our country for quite some time. It is in most unusual circumstances that the midterm polls are being held. Usually such opportunities do not come until the normal life of the Lok Sabha comes to an end.

The political forces which work today are such that it may really be difficult for a common man to throw his lot with any political party unless and until the significance of the principles of various political parties and the stands taken by political leaders are made available to him in layman's language. I am addressing you for this purpose. I wish to explain to the voters for what values my party stands, what exactly are steps in my mind as a solution of the burning problems faced by the nation today.

Our country is passing through a unique phase of socioeconomic changes where traditional and time-honored values are justling with modern ideas arising from the technological and scientific age in which we are living. Even 30 years ago when we made promises to the people, there was hope and faith that [words indistinct] politicians like what we said. Many parties and politicians have promised to the people of India many new opportunities and chances for economic and social betterment. The Indian National Congress [Party] has gone through various vicissitudes in its long history since its inception almost a 100 years ago. Today we are only a small segment of the various splits and centrifugal tendencies having ruined this party more than once. However, my comrades and I in the party are confident that the spirit of the Congress generated by the high traditions of Mahatama Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru can never be destroyed wither by the maneuvers of political opportunists or by a deliberate destruction of political norms as has been witnessed in this country over the last few years. It is my sincere belief that the Congress is the only alternative before the people for the solution of the manifold problems we are facing today. It is with this hope and belief that they accepted the aims of this party at the most difficult moment of its history. The spirit of the Congress can never die. This is a confidence with which I and my party face the situation today.

Many may question the (?sources) of my confidence and optimism. I will only say that while many parties and politicians may promise a better India tomorrow, the Congress is the only party which has the experience of almost a 100 years to appreciate the problems of this country and offer concrete solutions to them. Over 30 years of experience in administration has adequately equipped the Congress Party to undertake the responsibility once again and even improve on our past record. The Congress Party essentially stands for social and economic betterment of the vast masses of our people.

The political situation in India today is not a conflict between different groups of political orientation. It is not a fight between different castes, creeds or sex. Today it is essentially a struggle between the haves and have nots.

We have imparted to the majority of our people consciousness of their political rights in terms of the right of franchise. They can make and unmake the governments, but socially and economically, where do they stand? Fifty percent still remain below the poverty line. It would be unfair to say that India has not progressed economically since we attained independence in 1947. We have made great strides in the fields of industrial, agricultural and technological development, thanks to the farseeing of great leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Maulana Azad, Dr Ambedkar and many others of that generation. We have to bring about a fair distribution of the fruits of this development in order to cater to the precise needs of the majority of our people who mostly live in villages and far-flung rural areas.

Agriculture is the real base of India's economy and the Congress Party believes that the scientific modernization of agriculture along with the promotion of structural changes leading to a fairer distribution of assets and income in rural India is probably the only approach which will insure an equitable harmonization of industrial rural progress. A variety of small and medium industries, better prices and other technological assistance to small and marginal farmers, crop and cattle insurance, larger employment opportunities in agriculture and in agro-based industries are all part of the program which the Congress Party is committed to implement fully.

An integrated program of rural development can only be achieved through the speedy and effective implementation of land ceiling laws, distribution of surplus lands to the landless with special reference to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, the transfer of ownership of (?land to) farmers, the consolidation of holdings, concessional and easy bank credits to smaller and marginal farmers and guarantee of a fair minimum wage to the landless laborers, social justice [words indistinct] as well as reorientation of our industrial policy which will be able to harmonize balance between capital incentive and labor incentive industries. This will mean that adequate purchasing power will have to be passed on to and created in the hands of the poor, the neglected, the unemployed and underemployed.

The Congress Party's strongest emphasis, therefore, is eradication of poverty, more and more opportunities for employment and narrowing the gap of inequalities in our society. All our policies actually revolve around this basic central tenet.

Accordingly, the industrial policy will be revitalized to meet this aim. The Congress is committed to protecting the interests of the working classes, their rights and aspirations. We believe that labor should have full opportunities to participate in management. Bonus has been accepted as a deferred wage and as a matter of right of the working class. The Congress has always sought to build up the public sector, especially in the key and basic areas of the economy and particularly where heavy investments are called for. The public sector will continue to play a vital and effective role in our economy together with increased emphasis on small-scale and medium-scale cottage industries. This will be one of our priority areas of attention.

Another priority sector, to which I have devoted much thinking, is the area of planned development of the country as a whole and balanced development of all states. If the country is to progress fast, all regions have to maintain more or less the same tempo of development. Whatever the [word indistinct], the federating states are like the several pearls in the national thread. A sound and healthy process of development requires that all these pearls have to move in unison and this must be a continuous process.

No one state should be considered more important than the other, nor should any developed state get special assistance while other states are lagging behind. I would also particularly emphasize programs like primary health care, houses to the houseless, providing drinking water supply in the villages, minimum education to children, special legislation to insure that the weaker sections and the minority communities of our society are provided: adequate protection against insecurity of personal property, preservation of communal harmony, and equal wages for equal work--especially where women are concerned. My party will give its due status to Urdu language as reflected in the Congress manifesto. It will also be our endeavor that the personal law of the Muslim in particular and all other minorities in general will not be interfered with.

My personal experience while administering the government in my home state of Karnataka has been that the poor man's needs are basically simple and limited. What he requires is what we call roti, kapadda aur makan [food, clothing and shelter]. I would try to provide these to the best of my abilities and I am happy to say that I have succeeded in implementing a massive program of rural housing, land reforms, old-age pension, assistant to artisans and slum clearance, etc. The people of Karnataka by voting my party to power in every elections have amply demonstrated that my party has implemented its promises toward the betterment of poor section.

In the field of foreign policy, our party regards India's participation in the nonalined movement as crucial to the promotion of world peace. We desire friendship with all and enmity with none. The changing international economic situation calls for India taking a leading role in the struggle for narrowing the gap between the developed and the developing countries. Our party will strive for building India's relations with immediate neighboring countries on a basis of equal partnership and mutual interest. The Congress Party is committed to support the cause of the Arab countries as has been done since the days of Mahatama Gandhi.

At the national level, my colleagues in the party and I are aware that the coming midterm poll may not be decisive in the practical sense of the world. My party at the moment of its history can at best contribute to the process of decisionmaking. The system of democracy which we have followed since our independence has imparted vital importance to the place of contributors to decisionmaking. We have a long experience with the administration and the political processes, which our party has [word indistinct] since independence. Against this background of a (?long) legacy of trust and faith, my party feels that India requires a much needed change in our approach to the solution of the national problems. We have the will, the maturity and the experience to contribute to the stability and health of our political system and thereby help in the solution of the massive problems which are facing the people today. My party has offered concrete solutions to various problems at (?various stages). With God's help, my party is optimistic that the voters will enable my party to provide solution to our problems in the national interest and contribute once again to India's (?prosperity).

COMMUNIST-MARXIST LEADER GIVES ELECTION BROADCAST

BK191326 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 18 Dec 79 BK

[Election broadcast by CPI-M leader E.M.S. Namboodiripad--recorded]

[Summary] Sisters and brothers: This is the first election to the Lok Sabha when we, the voters of this country, have to choose between political forces which are contending for power at the center. The three are headed by Shrimati Indira Gandhi, Shree Jagjivan Ram and Shree Chanran Singh. The first represents a party which was in power for 30 years.

During the 11-year long rule when Shrimati Gandhi exercised her domination over the government as well the party organization--the Congress--the party had to face a major split and still another one immediately afterwards. Out of the first split emerged the Congress-O which subsequently joined the Janata Party. The second major split gave birth to the present Congress led by Devraj Urs, Chavan and other leaders. From the split of 1959 to that of 1978 the organization of the Congress Party was under the iron grip of Shrimati Gandhi and her close confidents who used the Congress organization as well as government abuses in furtherance of their primary interests. It is clear that another mandate, if given to this party, will mean still greater miseries, still more broken promises to the common people and still further profit for a handful of big landlords and big capitalists.

Another claimant to power who is seeking your vote is the leader of the Janata Party, Shree Jagjivan Ram. The Janata Party stood along with the Indira Congress and against the left and democratic forces in order to defeat a number of amendments to widen the democratic rights of the people. The most abusive feature of the Janata regime was the opportunity it provided to the forces of communism headed by the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh]. They advocate a Hindu rashtra [nation] and threaten the unity of the Indian people, and in building a modern, secular and democratic state. It is unfortunate that such stalwarts of a democratic and secular unit in the country as Jagjivan Ram, Chandra Shekhar, etc., should lend their prestige to the RSS and help it to carry on its activities under the garb of the Janata Party. My party, therefore, appeals to you to reject the Janata as decisively as the Indira Congress. A victory to either of them would make our strivings for democracy, secularism and socioeconomic advance far more difficult than it is today.

"The third political combination which is seeking your vote is headed by former Janata and Congress leaders who, having seen the (?return) of the authoritarianism and communalism, are opposing them, and they have joined hands with the left and democratic parties such as the CPI-M, [Communist Party of India-Marxist], CPI, RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party], the Forward Bloc, PWP [Peasants and Workers Party], A-ADMK 4 [All-India Anna Faction of the Dravida Munetra Kazhgam Party], the Akalis etc.

"Unfortunately, of course, there is no complete unity among the left and democratic parties as well as between them and the Congress. You will, however, note that serious efforts have been made to provide an alternative to the authoritarian Congress-I and the RSS-controlled Janata Party.

"A victory of this combination will pave the way toward greater unity among all the anti-authoritarian and secular forces. While appealing to you to insure the victory of the anti-authoritarian and secular candidates [words indistinct], I would like to emphasize the importance of the victory of the CPI-M and CPI and other left candidates. The perfor performance of the left parties and groups in all the six Lok Sabhas and several state legislatures in the country during the last 27 years has proved that they are the best fighters for (?independence) of the working people, the best champions of socialism and democracy."

PAKISTAN

SHAHI, AMIN TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

BK191629 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, said in Karachi today that the agenda for his talks with the Afghan Government during his forthcoming visit to Kabul consisted of matters of interest to Pakistan and matters of interest to Afghanistan. Mr Agha Shahi is due to begin his visit to Kabul on Saturday.

APP [Associated Press of Pakistan] says Mr Agha Shahi will meet the Afghan foreign minister, Mr Shah Wali, and President Hafizollah Amin.